

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT.
 PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

OFFICE: 15, NASSAU ST., COR. N. 2ND ST.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

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that is its political position, its attempt to organize a State government on improper principles and under improper influences. This organization is an effort made by a few monopolists and land speculators, to get possession of the valuable soil, and to deprive the people of this Union of their rights in that wonderful territory. While the gold diggers in that great country have been digging, working, and laboring, day after day, in the wet and dry season—while the merchants and navigators, and men of business in general, have been industrious at the sea ports—broken down politicians, speculators, and monopolists, set out to California, and endeavored, by all sorts of improper methods, to get possession of the gold region there, under fraudulent, inefficient, and defective land titles. Some of this set of adventurers—for they are not men of business—have been the chiefs who organized the State government, and set in motion a peculiar plan of legislation, by which they expect to deprive the gold diggers of California, and the people of the United States, of their right and title to the gold regions there, in the way we have pointed out. This ought not to be so.

Every additional arrival from California only deepens and widens the character of these two and important views of the progress of California. We allude, in the first place, to the commercial and industrial movement, which is prosperous, and calculated not only to benefit California, but to improve the trade of the United States—to place it on the highest footing—to change the commercial current of the world, and to make New York the metropolis thereof. In this point of view, California presents a cheering prospect; but in the other point of view, in reference to the movements of politicians and land speculators, we trust that these parties will be defeated. California should not be admitted as a State into the Union, without first a full and searching investigation into the origin of the State government and State institutions, and an equally full examination of the defective and fraudulent land titles, by which many land speculators lay claim to what does not belong to them in that wonderful region.

THE NEWS FROM EUROPE.—The Electoral Law of France. The electoral law now before the National Assembly at Paris, it will be remembered, proposes to limit the right of suffrage. By its passage, from two to three millions of individuals will be deprived of the privilege of voting, leaving the formation of the government, hereafter, in the hands of from six to seven thousand of the permanently settled inhabitants, who have the true interests of the country at heart.

The question, therefore, being one to all intents and purposes of mere expediency, may be looked upon in two ways. If it is to be considered as a first step of a series of like curtailments—as an enactment of the reactionary party, with a view to an abridgment of the just and proper exercise of the franchise, for the purpose of producing a conflict in the streets, or of eventually falling back into the path of monarchy—it is a dangerous movement, and the conduct of the government, in attempting to make the qualifications of voters incident to residence of three years in one community, village, or city, may be suspected as treacherous to the people, unless we have a settled belief in the danger to be apprehended to true republicanism, by giving power to those whose vagrant and nomadic habits unfit them for the exercise of the privileges of freedom.

The other view of the law as conservative of true republicanism—should not be lost sight of, in the course of a debate involving so many principles of justice and equality. In our own country, we have seen the necessity of registration, and that system has been introduced in New England, though not in New York, for the promotion of purity in elections. The proposed law for France is another mode of attaining the same end. Its object is to shut out those wandering, shifting, fickle, and meddling agitators on the surface of society, who go about from place to place, to promote discontent, to inactivate themselves into the workshops of regular laborers, and who are classed with the drones and plunderers of society, or with the Bohemians and floures of Paris. Of this portion of the people are the communists, the disciples of Fourier—men who would level everything down to their misanthropic marsh of morals and misery—socialists, antagonists of order, barbarians in the midst of civilization, desperately bent on the reign of anarchy, or a country without any government. The passage of the law will operate on this class, and give the power of reducing the voters to six or seven millions of earnest and patient men, each of whom has a strong interest in promoting the general welfare and the permanency of republican institutions. The probability may be that the very liberty of the people will be promoted by the steps taken, as is assumed, for its restraint and abridgment. The chief question seems to be, whether or not the law is really intended to deprive the people of their right to enjoy the franchise. If that is its object, they will perceive it in time to apply a remedy. It is possible, however, that the large number of voters remaining in the several departments and provinces, will be fully adequate to control the administration of the government, and that so large a majority of the inhabitants, having the deepest stake in the establishment of practical democracy, will be found sufficient to check any reactionary project towards a monarchy, even against the intrigues of the combined wisdom of the crowned heads in Europe.

The speech of General Cavaignac, unquestionably, is full of sound views upon the broad principle of universal suffrage. No true citizen of any representative government should be deprived of so valuable a right; but where there is reason to apprehend the sacrifice of the privilege, for unworthy and dangerous ends, the foresight of a nation should be exercised to prevent the mischief. The history of our own country—the only one possessing a government truly representative and elective—has shown the importance of powerful checks to the commission of frauds and elections, whereby the liberty of the people might be injured or endangered; and we are not surprised that the well-read and intelligent statesmen of France should be anxious to profit by our system and example.

At the same time, our fears are that too many of the statesmen of France are ambitious to return to the old system of monarchy. The wily Thiers, the brilliant yet vacillating Montalembert, and the plastic Changarnier, with some others, may hope to work up, through the agitations of society, a basis for a throne; but the attempt will be defeated, if the moral force of Frenchmen and the instinctive suspicions of the people are directed to the preservation of the republic. Had Louis Napoleon exhibited the characteristics of a Washington, it is reasonable to suppose that nothing dangerous to the republic would have been observed in the proposition for this new electoral law. As it is, however, it is natural to entertain the opinion that the object of its establishment is to consolidate the people into a mass, from which to mould a kingdom. The danger lies not in the law itself, but in the approach that it makes, under the guidance of intriguing and ambitious statesmen, towards a restoration of the old established order of things, which would divide France into a number of petty States, such as distract and curse the German empire.

POORLY DISCHARGED OF ONE-EYED THOMPSON.—According to all appearances, this remarkable genius will be discharged on the torpedo course, and also get off from the two indictments hanging over him in Brooklyn. There is a great desire, from some secret purposes, to let off Thompson, in spite of eight or ten witnesses against him. The atmosphere of the Times is very queer.

Wh. We shall, to-morrow, publish a double sheet, and thereby endeavor to give all the foreign news which will be received by the America, and the latest Cuban intelligence which will probably come by the Georgia to-day. We shall, also, to-morrow, place before our readers an immense quantity of local and other reading, which has been crowded out of to-day's paper by the highly important intelligence with which our columns are overflowing.

WHITES, BLACKS, AND MONKEYS.—A singular fuss is made in some of the anti-slavery, free-soil, and cabinet journals, against the practice of some of the railroads in permitting negroes to sit side by side with white people in the same cars. If there is any truth in their declarations against slavery, and its exclusion from California, why should not negroes sit side by side with the cabinet ministers themselves—with Greeley to say the grace before meat? According to that philosopher, the Garden of Eden is the native land, and Adam and Eve the great-great-grandfather and grandmother, and whites alike. If the doctrines of General Taylor's cabinet applied to California, and if the Northern politicians are correct, the negroes ought to have their sofas at the Opera, and sport their white kids at the balls and parties of Fifth avenue and Union place. It might do for those sinners, who like us, do not believe in such doctrines, to make such a fuss about negroes in railroad cars. But don't we bear such indignities with ease and grace? The Anglo Saxons, the Africans, and the monkeys, are all very respectable beings, each in their own position. But when will Northern politicians learn to be sensible? Not till monkeys become voters and church members.

CONVENTIONS IN THE WHIG PARTY.—GENERAL TAYLOR AND HENRY CLAY. The partisans of the present cabinet did not succeed so well in Philadelphia, in calling the whig party together, in order to endorse their policy, and get up an opposition to Henry Clay, and to his system for settling the difficulties of the slavery question. In fact, the whigs are seriously divided on the merits of the present cabinet. The great bulk of independent men are belonging to that party, however friendly they are to General Taylor personally, never can and never will support the present cabinet in its Galphin measures, its system of nepotism, or its attempt to continue the slavery agitation for a longer period. The cabinet has failed in Philadelphia on this point, and will fail everywhere else, in spite of whatever the journals at Washington, or the journals elsewhere, may say. General Taylor himself, is esteemed and respected for his public services, his simplicity of character, and his honesty of purpose; but it is now believed in all quarters that his entire ignorance of public affairs has been taken advantage of by the present cabinet, and turned to their own personal interests and the advancement of their own nefarious scheme—*Vile the Galphin*, and other crimes.

SAILING OF THE EUROPA.—The Europa, Captain Lott, for Liverpool and London, left this morning. She carried 125 passengers for Liverpool and 7 for London, and 46,288 in specie.

The Italian Opera Company.

The great opera of that genius whose compositions have had a remarkable influence upon the public mind—the gifted Bellini—was presented last night at the Astor Place Opera House. "Norma" is highly characteristic in the style of its music, of the dramatic age of Great Britain; and it has a deep and abiding interest in the human heart. Plays founded upon superstition are usually pulchre and cold. Like the "Ion" of Talford, or many others that might be named, "Norma" is founded upon the universal passion—love—and the representation, which marks its scenes is only like the summer lightning that arrests, but does not paralyze, the heart. Beautifully was the opera presented last night. Stefanozzi, whose first trial before a New York audience was in the character of Norma, acquitted herself last night with a finish, force, and elegance never surpassed by any of her efforts. The whole range of her vocalization was most admirably sustained, and the frequent plaints which she received were well merited. The silver-voiced Lorini was quite equal to any of his former displays of power, and Maria! displayed the unsurpassed power of her voice, and the representation, which marks its scenes is only like the summer lightning that arrests, but does not paralyze, the heart. Beautifully was the opera presented last night. Stefanozzi, whose first trial before a New York audience was in the character of Norma, acquitted herself last night with a finish, force, and elegance never surpassed by any of her efforts. The whole range of her vocalization was most admirably sustained, and the frequent plaints which she received were well merited. 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